

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 CU-04 OMB-01 /097 W

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R 021520Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5057

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS PRETORIA 3391

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SF, PINS

SUBJECT: SOWETO AFTERMATH

REF: PRETORIA 3369

1. WEEKEND PASSED RELATIVELY QUIETLY AND SCHOOLS IN BLACK TOWNSHIPS ARE BACK TO NEAR NORMAL OPERATIONS. SEVERAL ARSON ATTEMPTS WERE REPORTED BY PRESS, WITH FOUR SCHOOLS IN SOWETO FIRED ON FRIDAY NIGHT AND AN EMPTY RAILWAY CAR BURNT ON SUNDAY EVENING AT A SOWETO STATION. DAMAGE WAS APPARENTLY LIMITED, HOWEVER, AND AUTHORITIES INDICATED THAT FREQUENCY OF ARSON ATTEMPTS IS DROPPING. HEAD OF SOWETO CID CHARACTERIZED ATMOSPHERE AS " CALM" ON SATURDAY. CON GEN JOHANNESBURG INDICATES AGREEMENT ON THIS GENERAL ASESSMENT BUT IS AWARE OF UNDERCURRENT OF TENSION STILL VERY PREVELANT IN COMMUNITY. VIOLENCE OUTSIDE SOWETO HAS DECREASED OVER SAME PERIOD WITH ONLY REPORT OF SOME VANDALISM AT UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN CAPE.

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2. MINISTER OF JUSTICE, JIMMY KRUGER, MET ON FRIDAY

WITH SOWETO URBAN BANTU COUNCIL LEADERS AND ONE RESULT WAS SAG PERMISSION FOR UBC TO HOLD LARGE OPEN AIR MEETING IN SOWETO. SUCH MEETINGS HAD BEEN BANNED SINCE OUT-BREAK OF SOWETO VIOLENCE. AMONG OTHER DEMANDS REPORTEDLY PUT TO THE GOVERNMENT WERE A CALL FOR POLICE TO STOP PATROLING SCHOOLS; RECOGNITION OF URBAN BLACKS AS SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZENS AND REJECTION OF HOMELAND CITIZENSHIP; RECOGNITION OF BLACK TRADE UNIONS; FREEHOLD LAND TITLE FOR BLACKS IN URBAN AREAS; AND LIFTING OF JOB RESERVATIONS. SOWETO OPEN AIR MEETING DID TAKE PLACE ON SUNDAY AND THESE DEMANDS WERE CENTRAL TALKING POINTS. MEETING WAS IN JABULANI AMPHITHEATER AND ATTENDED PEACEFULLY BY ABOUT 3,000 PERSONS ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS. SPEAKERS AT MEETING WERE MOSTLY UBC AND SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES. THEY URGED CHILDREN TO RETURN TO SCHOOL AND EMPHASIZED NEED TO STOP VIOLENCE AND ARSON. THERE WERE FURTHER PUBLIC DENIALS THAT AGITATORS WERE ROOT CAUSE OF CONTINUING DISTURBANCES, AS STILL CLAIMED BY SAG.

3. PRESS ACCOUNTS STATED THAT REPORTERS CONTACTED KRUGER AFTER MEETING AND, WHILE HE WOULDN'T COMMENT ON OTHER ISSUES BLACK LEADERS HAD SURFACED, HE SAID HE WAS "QUITE PREPARED TO KEEP THE POLICE AWAY FROM THE SCHOOLS". HE ALSO STATED THAT ONLY FOUR STUDENTS WERE STILL BEING HELD AND THEY WOULD BE BROUGHT BEFORE COURTS "AS SOON AS POSSIBLE". BOWDLER

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